

URBAN DISTRICT OF  
WINDERMERE

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1937



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## URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WINDERMERE.

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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Windermere.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health of the Urban District for the year 1937.

The arrangement of the same is similar to that of the previous year and is compiled in accordance with the Ministry of Health's communication of October, 1937.

Except where any changes have occurred in the matter of Nursing in the Home, Laboratory arrangements, Hospital accommodation, Ambulance facilities and the establishment of new Clinics and Treatment Centres the general details have been omitted.

The proper provision of accommodation for the isolation and nursing of infectious diseases on modern lines has been under the consideration of the County Council for some time past but no decision has yet been reached.

Considerable important legislation has come into force during the year, notably the Midwives' Act and Public Health Act, both of which received the Royal Assent in the previous year.

The administration of the Midwives' Act is in the hands of the County Council.

The Public Health Act which has long been overdue replaces the 1875 and Amending Acts and clarifies the general administration regarding the Health Services.

The Education Act of 1936 provides for the raising of the School Age from 14 to 15 years.

During the year, the Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation) Act was passed and provides regulations for safety in connection with disinfection.

The Local Government Superannuation Act brings all Local Authorities into line with regard to the superannuation of officials ; in times past there is no doubt that Authorities who had adopted the Act of 1922 were in a position to make more attractive offers of employment to Officers than those who had not adopted the Act.

I am indebted to your Officials for much help and advice on many occasions and especially to the loyal co-operation of your Sanitary Inspector.

The Medical Profession has been ever ready to place its services at my disposal and I am grateful to its members for their courtesy which makes for harmony and efficiency.

To one and all I tend my sincerest thanks.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. BARON COCKILL,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

3rd May, 1938.

#### STAFF.

| Name.         | Qualifications.      | Office.                | Whole or Part Time. | Other Offices.                                  |
|---------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---|
| W. B. Cockill | M.D., etc.<br>D.P.H. | M.O.H.                 | Part                | M.O.H.<br>Westmorland<br>Combined<br>Districts. |
| F.C.Needham   | M. R. San. I.        | Sanitary<br>Inspector. | Part                | Surveyor  |



**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year  
ending December 31st, 1937.**

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Area (acres) .....  | 9,732   |
| Registrar-General's estimate of resident population,<br>mid 1937 .....    | 5,932   |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according<br>to Rate Books ..... | 1,694   |
| Rateable Value .....  | £69,354 |
| Sum represented by Penny Rate .....                                       | £274    |

Windermere is a pleasure and holiday resort with large Hotels, Boarding Houses and Schools. There are few industries, the chief of which are :—

Cake and Sweetmeat Factory.  
Iron Works.  
Woodworking.  
Building and Allied Trades.  
Launches and Boat Building.

None of these have any particular influence on Public Health.

**EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.**

|                          | Total.   | M.       | F. |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|----|
| Live Births (Legitimate) | 63 ..... | 28 ..... | 35 |
| (Illegitimate)           | 2 .....  | 0 .....  | 2  |

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10.9.

Birth Rate, England & Wales, 14.9.

|                    |         |         |   |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---|
| Still Births ..... | 2 ..... | 0 ..... | 2 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---|

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 30.

|  |       |       |    |       |    |       |      |
|--|-------|-------|----|-------|----|-------|------|
| Deaths   | ..... | ..... | 65 | ..... | 24 | ..... | 41   |
| Crude Death Rate, per 1,000 of the estimated resident population     | ..... | ..... |    | ..... |    | ..... | 10.9 |
| Corrected Death Rate, per 1,000 of the estimated resident population | ..... | ..... |    | ..... |    | ..... | 8.7  |
| Death Rate, England & Wales  | ..... | ..... |    | ..... |    | ..... | 12.4 |

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

|  | Deaths.    | Rate per<br>1,000 total live<br>(and still) births. |
|--|------------|---|
| Puerperal Sepsis                         | ..... Nil. | Nil.  |
| Other Puerperal Causes                   | ..... Nil. | Nil.  |
| Total                                    | ..... Nil. | Nil.  |
| Maternal Mortality Rate, England & Wales | .....      | 3.1   |

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| All infants per 1,000 total live births                 | ..... Nil. |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births     | Nil.       |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | Nil.       |
| Infantile Death Rate, England and Wales                 | ..... 58   |

|                               |       |       |      |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | ..... | ..... | 9    |
| „ „ Measles (all ages)        | ..... | ..... | Nil. |
| „ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) | ..... | ..... | Nil. |
| „ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years) | ..... | ..... | Nil. |

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year, nor beyond an epidemic of Influenza has there been any noteworthy cause of sickness or invalidity in the District ; neither occupation nor environment have had any prejudicial effect on health.

The School Medical Officer of Health does not consider that unemployment has had any significant influence on the health or physique of the children, nor is there any direct evidence that adults have been seriously affected from the same cause.

Deaths were registered from the following causes :—

| Disease.   | M. | F  | Total. |
|--|----|----|--------|
| Influenza.                      ..                      ..                      ..     | 1  | 2  | 3      |
| Tuberculosis of respiratory system                      ..                             | 1  | 2  | 3      |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases                      ..                                     | —  | 1  | 1      |
| Cancer.    Malignant Disease                      ..                                   | 3  | 6  | 9      |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage                      ..                      ..                   | —  | 4  | 4      |
| Heart Disease                      ..                      ..                      ..  | 12 | 18 | 30     |
| Other circulatory diseases                      ..                                     | 1  | —  | 1      |
| Bronchitis                      ..                      ..                      ..     | —  | 2  | 2      |
| Pneumonia (all forms)                      ..                      ..                  | 1  | 1  | 2      |
| Other respiratory diseases                      ..                      ..             | —  | 1  | 1      |
| Appendicitis                      ..                      ..                      ..   | 1  | —  | 1      |
| Other Diseases of Liver, etc.                      ..                                  | —  | 1  | 1      |
| Acute and Chronic Nephritis                      ..                                    | —  | 1  | 1      |
| Other violence                      ..                      ..                      .. | 2  | 1  | 3      |
| Other defined diseases                      ..                      ..                 | 2  | 1  | 3      |



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

### Laboratory Facilities.

No change has been made in these facilities.

### Ambulance Facilities.

These facilities remain the same as heretofore.

### Nursing in the Home.

There is no change in these arrangements.

### Clinics and Treatment Centres.

No new Clinics or Treatment Centres have been established.

### Hospitals.

There has been no change in either the public or voluntary hospital services.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water.

No new sources of Water Supply have been tapped.

Approximately 1,682 yards of new 4" main have been laid.

No analyses of water have been found necessary during the year.

The existing supplies are very satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

No contamination of the existing supplies has occurred.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

No extension of Sewerage has been made.

All the sewers in the District are periodically examined.

The Sewage Disposal Works are in very good condition.

### Rivers and Streams.

No action has been necessary with regard to pollution of rivers and streams.

**Closet Accommodation.**

The number of various types of closets in the District are as follows :—

|                  |       |       |
|------------------|-------|-------|
| W.C.'s--Washdown | ..... | 2,842 |
| Autoflushed      | ..... | 21    |
| Privies          | ..... | 70    |
| Pail Closets     | ..... | 17    |
|                  |       | <hr/> |
|                  |       | 2,950 |
|                  |       | <hr/> |

**Public Cleansing.**

The method of collection is by a properly constructed Mechanical Vehicle.

The number of tons collected is 2,500.

The disposal of dry household refuse is by controlled tipping, and no nuisance has arisen from this method.

The disposal of the contents of Earth Closets, Privies and Cesspools is by spreading on suitable farm lands in such a manner as to cause no nuisance.

**Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

The following inspections have been carried out :—

| Premises visited.                        | No. of<br>Inspections. |
|--|------------------------|
| Factories (Gas and Electric Works) ..... | 21                     |
| „ (including Workshop Laundries) .....   | 6                      |
| Workplaces .....                         | 5                      |
| Slaughterhouses .....                    | 203                    |
| Cowsheds .....                           | 92                     |
| Butchers' & Fishmongers' Shops .....     | 158                    |
| Private Schools .....                    | 3                      |
| Elementary Schools .....                 | 7                      |
| Dwelling houses .....                    | 198                    |
| Hotels .....                             | 48                     |
|  | <hr/>                  |
|  | 741                    |
|  | <hr/>                  |

The following Sanitary Work has also been carried out :—

|                            |       |       |    |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|----|
| Drains choked and relieved | ..... | ..... | 6  |
| Cesspools emptied          | ..... | ..... | 13 |
| New Drains tested          | ..... | ..... | 30 |
| Old Drains tested          | ..... | ..... | 14 |
| Cesspools abolished        | ..... | ..... | 3  |

Eighteen Informal Notices have been served and the matters complained of remedied.

#### **Shops' Act, 1934.**

No action has been called for respecting ventilation and temperature.

In one instance the Sanitary Convenience has been improved.

#### **Smoke Abatement.**

The District has been practically free from complaints in this respect.

#### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are no Public or Privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public in this District.

#### **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

No action has been required.

#### **Schools.**

The Sanitary condition of and water supplies to all Schools (Private and Elementary) are satisfactory.

There has been no necessity for closure on account of infectious disease.

### **HOUSING.**

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

|                                |       |       |     |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-----|
| (1) By the Local Authority     | ..... | ..... | Nil |
| (2) By other bodies or persons | ..... | ..... | 25  |

## 1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

|         |   |       |       |     |
|---------|---|-------|-------|-----|
| (1) (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)   | ..... | ..... | 150 |
| (b)     | Number of inspections made for the purpose  | ..... | ..... | 198 |
| (2) (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925            | ..... | ..... | Nil |
| (3)     | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation                                    | ..... | ..... | Nil |
| (4)     | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | ..... | ..... | Nil |

## 2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—

|  |   |       |       |   |
|--|---|-------|-------|---|
|  | Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | ..... | ..... | 7 |
|--|---|-------|-------|---|

## 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year ..... Nil

## 4. Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding.

|         |  |       |       |     |
|---------|--|-------|-------|-----|
| (a) (i) | Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year       | ..... | ..... | 3   |
| (ii)    | Number of families dwelling therein                          | ..... | ..... | 3   |
| (iii)   | Number of persons dwelling therein                           | ..... | ..... | 17½ |
| (b)     | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | ..... | ..... | Nil |



|  |     |
|--|-----|
| (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved<br>or reduced during the year .....   | 2   |
| (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases   | 13  |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-<br>houses have again become overcrowded<br>after the Local Authority have taken<br>steps for the abatement of overcrowding | Nil |
| (e) Any other particulars with respect to over-<br>crowding conditions upon which the<br>Medical Officer of Health may consider it<br>desirable to report .....            | Nil |

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

##### Milk.

There have been 92 inspections of cowsheds, and 20 inspections of farms and dairies.

20 samples of milk have been taken on behalf of the Westmorland County Council and tested for cleanliness and tubercle bacilli : only 3 passed both Methylene Blue and B.Coli tests, 4 passed Methylene Blue test alone and 14 showed the presence of B.Coli in 3 tubes ; this last indicates a dirty condition of cow's udders and flanks and is not satisfactory. No tubercle bacilli were found.

##### Meat and Other Foods.

Inspections of Slaughterhouses, Bakehouses, Shops and Vehicles have been regularly carried out, and no cause for complaint has arisen.

No Meat Marketing Scheme is in force.

#### Adulteration, Etc., and Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority and this work is carried out by Mr. C. J. H. Stock, County Analyst, Darlington.

Milk samples for cleanliness and tubercle bacilli are submitted to the Pathologist at Cumberland Pathological Laboratory, Carlisle.



## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

|  | Cattle<br>including<br>Cows. | Calves. | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs. | Pigs. |
|--|------------------------------|---------|------------------------|-------|
| Number killed (if known) ..  | —                            | —       | —                      | —     |
| Number inspected ..  | 247                          | 6       | 1,191                  | 53    |
| All Diseases except Tuberculosis :—  |                              |         |                        |       |
| All carcasses condemned  | —                            | —       | —                      | —     |
| Carcasses of which some<br>part or organ was<br>condemned .. ..                                | 1                            | —       | —                      | —     |
| Percentage of the num-<br>ber inspected affected<br>with disease other<br>than Tuberculosis .. | 0.4                          | —       | —                      | —     |
| Tuberculosis only :—   |                              |         |                        |       |
| Whole carcasses<br>condemned .. ..   | Nil                          |         |                        |       |
| Carcasses of which some<br>part or organ was<br>condemned .. ..                                |                              |         |                        |       |
| Percentage of the num-<br>ber inspected affected<br>with Tuberculosis ..                       |                              |         |                        |       |

One hind quarter condemned as unfit for consumption, decomposition having set in.

**Health Education.**

There is a considerable amount of dissemination of knowledge relating to health and disease, through the Women's Institutes and through health talks at the Schools by the School Medical Officers.

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

Notifiable diseases were few in number.

Four cases of Scarlet Fever occurred and were treated in Hospital ; one case of Diphtheria, the infection of which was contracted outside the area prior to residence within it ; this

case was treated at home ; there was one case of Puerperal Pyrexia, 4 cases of Pneumonia and 2 of Influenzal Pneumonia ; of these 1 Pneumonia and 2 Influenzal Pneumonia died.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is issued free for the treatment of all necessitous cases, excepting patients under the National Health Insurance Act ; also for both necessitous and insured persons for prophylactic purposes. The Council very wisely is prepared to supply the necessary facilities for artificial immunization against Diphtheria but so far no advantage has been taken of the same.

Hospital accommodation for Scarlet Fever is always available at the Isolation Hospital, Windermere, so there is no need to shorten the stay of any patient in Hospital. No provision is made for the admission of Measles, Whooping Cough, etc. Patients suffering from Diphtheria are treated at the Kendal Isolation Hospital.

The County Council has had under consideration for the past four years the whole of the Isolation Hospital question for the County ; various schemes have been put forward but so far there has been no definite decision.

The following bacteriological investigations have been carried out at the Combined Sanitary Districts Laboratory at Kendal :—

|                  |       |    |
|------------------|-------|----|
| Diphtheria       | ..... | 17 |
| Bacilluria       | ..... | 1  |
| Water (Analysis) | ..... | 1  |
| „ (B.Coli)       | ..... | 1  |
|                  | —     |    |
|                  |       | 20 |
|                  | —     |    |

A close liaison exists with the School Medical Officers and thus school notifications are always available and utilised where necessary.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

| DISEASES.            | Totals. | Ages. |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     | Admitted to Hospital. | Deaths |
|----------------------|---------|-------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------|--------|
|                      |         | -1    | 1- | 2- | 3- | 4- | 5- | 10- | 15- | 20- | 35- | 45-                   | 65-    |
| Scarlet Fever ..     | 4       | —     | —  | 1  | —  | —  | 3  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —                     | —      |
| Diphtheria ..        | 1       | —     | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | 1   | —   | —   | —   | —                     | —      |
| Pneumonia ..         | 6       | —     | —  | —  | —  | 1  | —  | —   | 2   | 1   | 1   | —                     | 3      |
| Puerperal Pyrexia .. | 1       | —     | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | 1   | —   | —                     | —      |
| TOTAL ..             | 12      | —     | —  | 1  | —  | 1  | 3  | 1   | 2   | 2   | 1   | —                     | 3      |

No facilities exist for disinfestation. Disinfection with formalin is carried out after all infectious cases, and bedding, clothing, etc., is disinfected where necessary in the Steam Disinfector at the Isolation Hospital.

Arrangements have been made between the Westmorland County Hospital and the Manchester Radium Institute for the treatment of cases of malignant disease by radium when so required.

No action has been taken under section 66 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1925, with regard to prevention or treatment of blindness.

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

#### TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

| Age<br>Periods. | NEW CASES.   |    |                      |    | DEATHS.      |    |                      |    |
|-----------------|--------------|----|----------------------|----|--------------|----|----------------------|----|
|                 | Respiratory. |    | Non-<br>Respiratory. |    | Respiratory. |    | Non-<br>Respiratory. |    |
|                 | M.           | F. | M.                   | F. | M.           | F. | M.                   | F. |
| 0               | —            | —  | —                    | —  | —            | —  | —                    | —  |
| 1               | —            | —  | —                    | 1  | —            | —  | —                    | 1  |
| 5               | 1            | —  | —                    | —  | —            | —  | —                    | —  |
| 15              | —            | 1  | 1                    | 1  | —            | —  | —                    | —  |
| 25              | —            | 1  | —                    | —  | —            | 1  | —                    | —  |
| 35              | —            | —  | —                    | —  | —            | —  | —                    | —  |
| 45              | —            | —  | —                    | —  | —            | —  | —                    | —  |
| 55              | —            | —  | —                    | —  | 1            | 1  | —                    | —  |
| 65              | —            | —  | —                    | —  | —            | —  | —                    | —  |
| TOTAL           | 1            | 2  | 1                    | 2  | 1            | 2  | —                    | 1  |



The incidence of Tuberculosis was less than in the previous year ; there were 3 cases of Pulmonary and 3 of non-pulmonary, one of these latter having contracted the disease prior to coming into the district.

One non-pulmonary died without being notified.

No case occurred in a person who was unemployed.

No action has been necessary under Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 62, Public Health Act, 1925.

The administration of Tuberculosis, Venereal Disease and Maternity and Child Welfare is under the County Council.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

|                  | Inspections. Notices. |       |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Factories .....  | ..... 21              | —     |
| Workshops .....  | ..... 6               | —     |
| Workplaces ..... | ..... 5               | —     |
|                  | —————                 | ————— |
|                  | 32                    | —     |
|                  | —                     | —     |





